



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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TTY Relay 711

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Meeting Summary

February 22, 2012, 2-4 p.m.

Mercer Island Library- 4400 88th Ave. SE, Mercer Island

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Lichty at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Kathy Brasch, Kathy Hadaller, Loran Lichty, Edith Loyer Nelson, David Ramsay, Kate Slaminko

Board Members Excused/Absent: Dorry Elias-Garcia

County Staff Present: George Dignan, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Debora Gay, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS; Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS

Guests: Douglas Hoople, Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board Chair (VCLOB); Lois Schipper, Public Health Seattle & King County (PHSKC); Paula Steinke, Childcare Resources; Emily Yette, PHSKC

Review of Meeting Summary

The January 25, 2012 RHSLOB meeting summary was approved by consent as written.

Procurement Plan Review

Play and Learn Program - Paula Steinke, Child Care Resources

Paula Steinke with Child Care Resources, the subcontracting agency implementing the Human Services Levy-funded Play and Learn (P & L) program, gave board members an update on the program. The Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC) administers the P & L program and Lois Schipper is the PHSKC program manager. The Levy Service Improvement Plan (SIP) allocated a total of \$53,000 per year for 2012 through 2017 for the program. Levy funding provides about 20 percent of overall program costs. The Levy funds staff that manages the program and continually refines the program model that is being replicated nationally.

The concept of P & L came out of a study that was done about ten years ago. Many children were in non-licensed childcare, cared for by family, friends and neighbors within the immigrant and

refugee population where licensed care wasn't the cultural norm. There was concern these children could be missing out on early learning opportunities offered in licensed childcare settings.

Instead of trying to draw these children and caregivers into the licensed caregiver system, Childcare Resources started providing training to the caregivers - family, friends and neighbors - developing a curriculum for them to use. The groups often encompass many languages and cultures and part of the training includes education in cultural differences. The curriculum encourages adults to play with the children, something that may be outside of the cultural norm for some communities.

The programs are designed to reach into the community's caregivers and teach the importance play in educating children so they are ready for school and life. Culturally relevant care that reflects that child's home culture and language builds positive self identity and improves school readiness.

Through the P & L groups, caregivers learn more about child development and what they can do at home to support healthy growth and learning. They also get a chance to meet new friends that can be particularly important for refugee and immigrant groups, hear more about other early learning and family support programs in their neighborhood. Groups meet weekly all over King County in libraries, family centers, schools, community centers and other neighborhood locations. Most groups are free, do not require registration, and are offered in a variety of languages.

Paula thanked the Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board for supporting the program. In 2011 alone, Play and Learn served over 3,000 families in King County.

Discussion

- The P & L provides services into the community where the resources aren't available. P&L is offered where Head Start is available but the need is greater than both programs are able to accommodate.
- Board members were pleased how P & L adapts to a variety of cultures and helps educate young children to make them more successful in the future.
- Paula invited the board to arrange a visit a P & L group session.

Procurement Plan Review

Promoting First Relationships (PFR) – Lois Schipper

PFR is a prevention program dedicated to promoting children's social-emotional development through responsive, nurturing caregiver-child relationships. PFR trains service providers in the use of practical, effective strategies for promoting secure and healthy relationships between caregivers and young children (birth to 3 years). The early caregiver/child relationship is critical to lifelong success and is predictive of physical health later in life.

A total of \$207,000 in 2012 of Human Services Levy funds is subcontracted to the University of Washington, School of Nursing which developed the PFR model. The PFR provides training to the staff of agencies providing care to at-risk families. Training consists of a three day introduction followed by 20 weeks of work alongside the trainer who mentors agency staff on how to promote healthy caregiver / child relationships. Besides supporting UW program staff, funds are provided to agencies to back fill positions so their employees can attend PFR training. A Request for Proposal process was conducted to select the agencies to receive PFR training. These agencies all work

with at-risk families. The program has recently expanded to Distance Learning/Skype to make the program more accessible.

In response to a question about veterans being served by the program, Lois responded that some veterans receive services but there is not a targeted effort to serve veterans. It was suggested that the program might collaborate with PHSKC's other levy-funded programs such as the Cultural Navigator program or with the Levy's Military Family Outreach Program implemented through a contract with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.

A general comment provided by board members was that they needed a better understanding of how programs presenting a procurement plan fit into the overall picture of the Levy. Staff agreed to provide an introduction and create a document to frame the project in relation to others in the Levy.

Chair's Report

No Chair's report.

Staff Report – Debora Gay and Marcy Kubbs

- Marcy Kubbs discussed the tentative board meeting schedule for 2012. She explained the original plan included alternating between a joint meeting and individual board meetings each month but that plans are very fluid.
- There will be individual board meetings in March instead of a joint board meeting as originally announced. The individual meetings need to be held the week of March 12th in order to accommodate department deadlines. Agenda items include reviewing a new Aerospace Employment Initiative procurement plan and a plan to utilize unspent funds from the prior levy.
- April 26th will be the next joint board meeting where members will hear from Jon Hoskins' evaluation team on the 2012-2017 Levy Evaluation Implementation Plan.
- George Dignan informed the board that the homeless employment RFP has been pushed back to April and will be reviewed in May with awards announced in June.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Kathy Brasch wondered if there were procedures to deal with the issue of chronically absent board members. Marcy agreed into look this and report back to the board.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.